UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

December 18, 2018

MEMORANDUM

Subject: Browns Tree Care Dump – Evaluation of December 10 and 11 Preliminary Air Sampling Results

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To: Matthew Loesel
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Summary:

The memorandum provides an evaluation of air sampling results for the Browns Tree Care Dump facility near Bella Vista, Arkansas. Twenty-four-hour air samples for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were collected on December 10 and 11, 2018. The air samples were collected at four locations, which included an on-site sample location (BVF-SUM-013), and three off-site locations.

BVF-SUM-013 – Brown Tree Care on-site location. The following VOCs were identified above the laboratory detection limits:

- Ethanol
- Acetone
- 2-Propanol
- Hexane
- 2-Butanone (Methyl Ethyl Ketone)
- Tetrahydrofuran
- Benzene
- Heptane
- Toluene
- Ethyl Benzene
- m,p-Xylene
- o-Xylene
- 4-Ethyltoluene
- 1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene
- Methyl Acetate

BVF-SUM-011 – Webb Lane, located approximately 0.25 miles north and west of the site. This sample location is at a higher elevation than the site. Data from the December 10 sampling event could not be validated due to a canister pressure problem. No VOCs were detected from the December 11 sampling:

BVF-SUM-012 – Sutherland Lane, located approximately 0.1 miles north and east of the site. This sample location is at a higher elevation than the site. The following VOC compounds were identified above the laboratory detection limits:

- Benzene
- Toluene

BVF-SUM-014 – Mary Ann Lane, located approximately 0.25 miles south and east of the site. This sample location is at a higher elevation than the site. No VOC compounds were identified above the laboratory detection limits for samples collected at this location during the two sampling events.

EPA Regional Screening Levels (RSLs) for residential air are used to identify compounds that need additional evaluation and are not intended to be directly used as air action levels. The results of the VOC sampling were compared to both the chronic RSL (70 years) and the subchronic (2 weeks to 7 years) RSL for residential air. The RSLs represent levels which are without adverse non-cancer effects over a time period.

VOCs detected at all the off-site sample locations (BVF-SUM-011, BVF-SUM-012 and BVF-SUM-014) did not exceed the chronic RSLs, and are therefore, at acceptable levels.

The maximum concentration of Benzene was identified at the December 10 on-site sample location (BVF-SUM-013) at a level of 70 $\mu g/m^3$ which exceeds the chronic RSL of 31 $\mu g/m^3$. However, the on-site benzene level of 70 $\mu g/m^3$ is below the sub-chronic RSL of 82 $\mu g/m^3$ and therefore does not represent an immediate health concern.

On December 10, benzene was also detected at BVF-SUM-011 and BVF-SUM-012 at levels of 18 and 9.7 $\mu g/m^3$, respectively. On December 12, benzene was also detected at BVF-SUM-012 and BVF-SUM-013 at levels of 7.2 and 29 $\mu g/m^3$, respectively. These are all below the chronic RSL of 31 $\mu g/m^3$.

Discussion of each VOC detected above the detection limit and compared to screening levels is as follows.

- Ethanol – Ethanol was only detected at BVF-SUM-013 (on-site) with a concentration of 6.2 $\mu g/m^3$. There is no EPA screening level for ethanol and the screening level for methanol of 21,000 $\mu g/m^3$ is used as a surrogate. Therefore, ethanol is unlikely to cause adverse health effects.

- Acetone – Acetone was detected only at BVF-SUM-013 (on-site) at a concentration 150 $\mu g/m^3$. Acetone has a screening level of 32,000 $\mu g/m^3$. Therefore, acetone is unlikely to cause adverse health effects. In addition, acetone is a common laboratory contaminant.

- 2-propanol (isopropanol) – 2-propanol was detected only at BVF-SUM-013 (on-site) at a concentration of 15 $\mu g/m^3$. Isopropanol has a screening level of 210 $\mu g/m^3$. Therefore, isopropanol is unlikely to cause adverse health effects.

- Hexane – Hexane was detected only at BVF-SUM-013 (on-site) with a concentration 6.5 µg/m^3. Hexane has a screening level of 730 µg/m^3. Therefore, hexane is unlikely to cause adverse health effects.

- 2-butanone (methyl ethyl ketone (MEK)) – MEK was detected only at BVF-SUM-013 (on-site) at a concentration 40 µg/m^3. MEK has a screening level of 5,200 µg/m^3. Therefore, MEK is unlikely to cause adverse health effects. In addition, MEK is a common laboratory contaminant.

- Tetrahydrofuran – Tetrahydrofuran was detected only at BVF-SUM-013 (on-site) at a maximum concentration of 22 µg/m^3. the screening level for tetrahydrofuran is 2,100 µg/m^3; therefore, tetrahydrofuran is unlikely to cause adverse non-cancer health effects.

- Benzene – On-site sample location (BVF-SUM-013, on site) had the highest benzene level (70 µg/m^3) and off-site location BVF-SUM-012 (Sutherland Lane north and east of site) had a maximum concentration of 9.7 µg/m^3. Benzene has a chronic (i.e., 70 years) non-cancer screening level of 31 µg/m^3. On-site sample (BVF-SUM-013) was the only location to exceed the chronic (i.e., 70 year) non-cancer screening level of 31 µg/m^3. The off-site sample locations do not exceed the chronic (i.e., 70 years) non-cancer screening level for benzene and do not appear to present an unacceptable health risk. Therefore, all off-site sample results for benzene in air are at an acceptable level.

  Benzene has a subchronic (i.e., 2 weeks to 7 years). non-cancer screening level of 82 µg/m^3. Subchronic non-cancer screening levels represent levels which are without adverse non-cancer effects over an intermediate time period (i.e., up to 7 years). The on-site benzene level of 70 µg/m^3 is below the subchronic non-cancer screening level of 82 µg/m^3. Therefore, the benzene level of 70 µg/m^3 at the on-site sample location does not represent an immediate health concern. Benzene has an Acute Exposure Guideline Levels (AEGLs). The AEGL-1 is the level of a compound that is predicted that the public, including sensitive individuals, could experience discomfort and irritation. However, the effects are not disabling, are temporary and reversible upon cessation of exposure. The eight-hours AEGL-1 for benzene is 28,000 µg/m^3. The twenty-four-hour on-site sample location level of 70 µg/m^3 was over 300 times less than the eight-hour AEGL-1 for benzene.

- Heptane - Heptane was only detected at location BVF-SUM-013 (on-site) at a concentration 5.2 µg/m^3. Heptane has a screening level of 420 µg/m^3. Therefore, heptane is unlikely to cause adverse health effects.

- Toluene - Location BVF-SUM-013 (on-site) had the highest concentration (49 µg/m^3). Toluene was also detected at BVF-SUM-012 (Sutherland Lane, north of the site) at a maximum concentration of 6.3 µg/m^3. Toluene has a screening level of 5,200 µg/m^3. No location exceeded the screening level. Therefore, toluene is unlikely to cause adverse effects.

- Ethyl benzene - Ethyl benzene was only detected at location BVF-SUM-013 (on-site) at a concentration 7.5 µg/m^3. Ethyl benzene has a non-cancer screening level of 1,000 µg/m^3. Therefore, ethyl benzene is unlikely to cause adverse non-cancer health effects.

- m,p-Xylene - m,p-Xylene was detected at only BVF-SUM-013 (on-site) at a maximum concentration 16 µg/m^3. m,p-Xylene has a screening level of 100 µg/m^3. Therefore, m,p-Xylene is unlikely to cause adverse health effects.

- o-Xylene - o-Xylene was detected only at BVF-SUM-013 (on-site) at a concentration of 6.3 µg/m^3. o-Xylene has a screening level of 100 µg/m^3. Therefore, o-xylene is unlikely to cause adverse health effects.

- 4-Ethyltoluene – 4-Ethyltoluene was detected only at BVF-SUM-013 (on-site) at a concentration of 5.0 µg/m^3. There is no EPA screening level for 4-ethyltoluene and the screening level for toluene of 5,200 µg/m^3 is used as a surrogate. Therefore, 4-ethyltoluene is unlikely to cause adverse health effects.

- 1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene - 1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene was detected only at BVF-SUM-013 (on-site) at a concentration of 4.1 µg/m^3. 1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene has a screening level for toluene of 63 µg/m^3 and is unlikely to cause adverse health effects.

- Methyl Acetate – Methyl acetate was detected only at BVF-SUM-013 (on-site) at a concentration of 55 µg/m^3. There is no EPA screening level for methyl acetate and the screening level for ethyl acetate of 73 µg/m^3 is used as a surrogate. Therefore, methyl acetate is unlikely to cause adverse health effects.